Strategic objectives met by visit of USS Nimitz

2333. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government extended invitation to the US Government regarding the docking of USS Nimitz;

(b) if so, the reason for such invite;

(c) what were the strategic and other objectives met by such a visit by USS Nimitz; and

(d) did any exercise or interaction take place between the two Navies during the docking of the USS Nimitz?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Request for the visit of USS Nimitz was made by the Government of USA.

(c) Port calls are routinely made by all navies, including the Indian Navy. The policy on the port calls by foreign naval vessels does not exclude nuclear-powered vessels from calling at Indian ports with the permission of the Indian Government.

(d) The Indian Navy did not carry out any naval exercise with the US Navy during the port call of USS Nimitz at Chennai in July, 2007. However, interaction with US naval personnel on board USS Nimitz took place.

Supply of IITs to OEF, Dehradun

2334. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of night vision device in Opto Electronics Factory, Dehradun is being affected because of irregular supply of Image Intensifier Tubes (IIT); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and action taken to ensure uninterrupted supply of IITs to the production units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been some delay in supply of Image Intensifier tube due to nonavailability of imported components. Action has been taken to ensure timely availability of Image Intensifier Tubes at Opto Electronics Factory, Dehradun.

Ordnance factory at Nalanda

2335. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an ordnance factory is to be set up at Nalanda, the holiest place of Buddhists, the symbol of peace and non-violence;